



**Department of Economic & Community Development
Culture & Tourism Advisory Committee Meeting
One Constitution Plaza
Hartford, Connecticut
Monday, January 14, 2013, Main Conference Room
1:30 PM**

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Price, Dick Allen, Nick Bellantoni, Carolyn Cicchetti, Arthur Diedrick (via phone), Philip Eliasoph (via phone), Anne Elvgren, Agostino Galluzzo, Betty Hale, Helen Higgins, Fritz Jellinghaus (via phone), Renny Loisel, Larry McHugh (via phone), Stuart Parnes, Rita Schmidt, Ann Sheffer (via phone), and Ted Yudain (via phone)

Absent: Charles Bunnell, Hans Hartman, Herbert Jay, Lee Kuckro, Guy Ortoleva, Will Wilkins, and Walter Woodward

Staff & Guests: Kip Bergstrom, Randy Fiveash, Christine Castonguay, Mary Dunne, Dan Forrest, Leigh Johnson, Laura Mancuso, and Sara Bronin

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairperson Carolyn Cicchetti called the Advisory Committee meeting to order.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Rita Schmidt, and second by Betty Hale, the Advisory Committee on Culture and Tourism approved the December 10, 2012 meeting minutes as circulated. (Y-12, N-0)

III. AGENDA ITEMS

- a) **On a motion by Carolyn Cicchetti, and second by Anne Elvgren, the Advisory Committee on Culture and Tourism approved fifteen (15) Historic Restoration Fund Grants totaling \$1,323,723.00. (Y-11, N-0, Abstaining – Member Jellinghaus)**

Laura Mancuso gave a brief overview of the Historic Restoration Fund program and a PowerPoint presentation containing photos of the proposed projects for the 15 eligible properties. Construction Grants program is a matching reimbursement grant for restoration, rehabilitation, stabilization or acquisition of properties listed on the state or national register of historic places. Properties must be owned by municipalities, 501C3 or C13 non-profit organizations/associations. Preservation restrictions or easements are placed on the property for a period of time depending on the amount of funding. The program is funded through the Community Investment Act (CIA).

Nineteen applications were received for review – four (4) were determined ineligible due to incomplete applications. Out of the 15 projects eligible for funding, nine (9) were secular and six (6) were religious. Connecticut is one of three states that can fund work on religious properties as long as the work is completely secular in nature.



IV. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

On a motion by Rita Schmidt, and second by Carolyn Cicchetti, the Advisory Committee on Culture and Tourism approved the following consent agenda item: (Y-11, N-0, Abstaining – Member Parnes)

- a. Three (3) Survey and Planning Grants totaling \$61,900.00.

On a motion by Rita Schmidt, and second by Stuart Parnes, the Advisory Committee on Culture and Tourism approved the following consent agenda item: (Y-12, N-0)

- b. One (1) Certified Local Government Historic Preservation Enhancement Grant totaling \$2,790.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

- a) **Advisory Committee in oversight of arts and historic preservation consulting services contractors**

The Advisory Committee will review and decide how the agency should integrate the arts and historic preservation resources together based on reports generated by the consulting services Voladizo, LLC.

Roundtable introductions were conducted, with Sarah Bronin from Voladizo giving a brief summary of the scope of work to be performed.

- b) **Change to quarterly meeting schedule with rotation of meeting venues around the state**

It was recommended and agreed to hold future Advisory Committee meetings at distinctive locations around state, and to change the monthly meeting schedule to a quarterly schedule. Member Kuckro offered to host the next Advisory Committee meeting at his home in Old Wethersfield. Members were asked to think about distinctive and interesting locations around the state where meetings could be held. Member Yudain offered to host a meeting at Curtain Call in Stamford.

- c) **Role of Advisory Committee in advocacy for arts, history and tourism in the next biennial budget**

Key members of the Tourism Council meet with Governor Malloy to stem cuts in funding for this fiscal year, and to discuss funding for the next legislative session.

The “*It’s Working*” (*\$15M Statewide Tourism Marketing Fund Investment*) document highlights increases to: visitor attractions, lodging tax collections and job growth to leisure and hospitality sectors since the launch of Connecticut’s *still revolutionary* brand and marketing campaigns for both tourism and business development. For every dollar invested yields a return 2-3 times in direct tax revenue from the \$15M investment in FY 2012. This document should be shared with each member’s legislative appointing authority.

- d) **Priorities for filling vacancies on the Advisory Committee**

There are five (5) vacant positions on the Advisory Committee, note also that two (2) of the existing Advisory Committee members are from previous legislation that included appointments to the Film Office and were not removed by their appointing authority when the Film Office was merged from the Commission on Culture and Tourism to the Department of Economic and Community Development. Members who may know of individuals that may have expressed an interest in serving on the Advisory Committee should forward their names to Kip Bergstrom.



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VI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made and moved. The next Advisory Committee is scheduled for February 4, 2013.